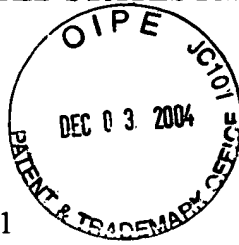


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application  
WENG, ET AL.



Filed: 31 December 2001

Serial No.: 10/039,019

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR PLACEMENT OF MULTIPLE  
FRACTURES IN OPEN HOLE WELLS

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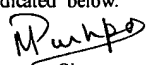
Art Unit: 7528

Primary Examiner: Thompson, Kenneth

Attorney Docket No.: 56.0622

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, DC 20231

<p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent &amp; Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.</p> <p>Date <u>Nov 29, 2004</u>  Signature PUSHPA MONAN</p>
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Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed concurrently with the Request for Continued Examination in the above-entitled case. The commissioner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments as set forth hereinafter.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper, and **Remarks/Arguments** are presented starting at page 6.